NOAA SOS Public Kiosk - 5.1+ Release Notes

Version 5.1.1

Oct. 4, 2016

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This release is intended for Science On a Sphere® (SOS) sites that are currently using or would like to begin using the NOAA SOS **Public Kiosk**. It includes many requested enhancements and fixes for reported bugs.

Release Dates

- **SOS Kiosk 5.1.1** (including media2kiosk as part of SOS 5.1) - Aug. 25, 2016
- **SOS Kiosk 5.1** (including media2kiosk utility) - July 25, 2016

Requirements

- **SOS Kiosk 5.1+** requires **Windows 7 or 8** (other versions, including Windows 10, will likely work as well)
- The **media2kiosk** (v5.1) utility is now part of the installation of **SOS 5.1.0+** on Ubuntu 16.04 LTS. However, you may still use the previous media2kiosk 5.1 utility that we distributed with the Kiosk 5.1 release in July (for Ubuntu 12.04) if you have not yet upgraded your SOS system to 5.1.0+.

How to Get and Install the Kiosk 5.1+ Release

- This release is available upon request by contacting SOS Support at sos.gsd@noaa.gov. NOAA will provide Internet links to download a setup.exe Kiosk installer executable. This file is not obtainable using standard Ubuntu update management tools.
- The Kiosk is installed on a Windows machine with touch screen by double clicking the downloaded installer program, setup.exe, and following the directions. The default configuration of the kiosk files are automatically installed. If you have an existing kiosk configuration, the new one is merged into that. If you want to start with a new copy and default configuration of the latest kiosk software, you should uninstall your current version before installing the new one.
- The media2kiosk utility (v5.1.1) is installed on the SOS machine as part of the SOS 5.1+ standard installation. If your SOS system is still version 5.0, you may also get the media2kiosk utility v5.0 installation script upon request (it will not be installed using standard Ubuntu update management tools).

NOAA SOS Public Kiosk

The NOAA SOS Public Kiosk ("NOAA Kiosk") software was a new product beginning with the SOS 5.0 release (in Nov. 2015). It provides a touch screen controller intended for a general public audience to interact with a Science On a Sphere® (SOS) exhibit when there is no docent present. The NOAA Kiosk provides a flexible and easy-to-administer public controller that can be localized to native languages by using standard SOS playlists. A revised and updated manual for installation, setup, and usage is available at the link: NOAA SOS Public Kiosk .

New Features & Enhancements:

- **Administration Options**
    - New built-in option to transfer files between SOS machine and Kiosk
        - Make an initial copy of the default kiosk configuration from the Kiosk to the SOS machine to make adjustments
        - Periodic copying of configurations modified on the SOS machine to the Kiosk.
    - New alternative lock code for docents that doesn't provide administrator-level access
    - Improved virtual keyboard and number entry windows

- New support for using a physical keyboard
- Additional UI customizations for colors and font size
- New property to specify the autoplay group to use with autoplay option 1
- Instructions for the optional use of a 3rd-party restart utility
- New editor for translations in config (title, subtitle, etc.)
- **Public User Interface**
  - New option to rotate the trackball image to match SOS motion
  - New separate Z-rotation control button for animations
  - Be able to tap the curved arrows to make the sphere turn
  - Changeable delay time to wait after selecting a dataset until another may be selected
  - New popup dialog to tell the user to wait while a dataset is loading with an indicator pointing to the dataset.
  - If a dataset is loaded using autoplay set to 1 or 2, the button for the dataset being played is highlighted, with scrolling done as needed so it is visible (new for version 5.1.1).
  - Improved appearance and/or functionality of tilt arrows, frame slider, +/- buttons, and info button
  - Reversed the scrolling direction for swiping the groups and datasets to match standard web browser behavior
  - Revised default group and dataset configuration during installation, including a new Movie group
- **Localization/Translations**
  - New built-in administration editor on the Kiosk machine for making public UI translations
  - New localization of the administration UI text supported with a provided 3rd-party application on the Kiosk machine called Linguist
  - New automatic support for all common language names displayed in their own language
  - Added full set of UI translations installed for Traditional Chinese and Mexican Spanish
- **Numerous bug fixes and stability improvements**
  - Autoplay on (set to 1): when resuming after an interruption, it will go back to a particular specified group (e.g., Popular)
  - Movie datasets will play all the way through and not be interrupted by the duration setting
  - Configuration file will not be reset if the kiosk crashes
  - When SOS is not connected the Kiosk will still work
  - The overlay button will work when user chooses another language in the UI

The media2kiosk utility

The media2kiosk utility is a command-line program that originated with the SOS 5.0 release (in Nov. 2015). It is used on the SOS machine to prepare configuration files required by the NOAA Kiosk on the Windows touch screen machine. The updated Kiosk manual at the link: NOAA SOS Public Kiosk describes the use of this utility.

New Features & Enhancements

- **New options for generating trackball images**
  - NOAA-provided sphere_frame images for selected datasets (automatically downloaded from NOAA)
  - Option for user-provided image to override default extracted image
  - Option for user-specified frame number in animations to override default frame (the middle frame)

- **Improved capabilities for troubleshooting issues from automated dataset configuration for the kiosk**
    - New logging level command line arguments to specify the amount of diagnostic output with optional time stamps
    - Added and expanded many informational, warning, and error messages
- **General bug fixes**